

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1 (currently amended): A precoated metal sheet, with excellent corrosion resistance and having little ~~affect~~ effect on environment, a precoating comprising a metal sheet having, on at least one surface thereof, an inorganic film and an organic coat layer thereon, wherein said inorganic film is a film mainly comprising one or both of a metal oxide and a metal hydroxide each using a metal species exclusive of chromium an oxide of metal and/or silicon and a hydroxide of metal and/or silicon, the metal species of the oxide and hydroxide being exclusive of chromium, and said film has cracks therein and the cracks are formed by a liquid phase process for imparting the oxide of metal and/or silicon and/or the hydroxide of metal and/or silicon to the metal sheet.

2 (currently amended): A precoated metal sheet, with excellent corrosion resistance and having little ~~effect~~ effect on environment, comprising a metal sheet on the surface of which pits are formed, a precoating comprising the metal sheet having, on at least one surface thereof, an inorganic film and an organic coat layer thereon, wherein said inorganic film is a film mainly comprising one or both of a metal oxide and a metal hydroxide each using a metal species exclusive of chromium an oxide of metal and/or silicon and a hydroxide of metal and/or silicon, the metal species of the oxide and the hydroxide being exclusive of chromium, and the pits are formed by a liquid phase process for imparting the oxide of metal and/or silicon and/or the hydroxide of metal and/or silicon to the metal sheet.

3 (currently amended): A precoated metal sheet, with excellent corrosion resistance and having little ~~affect~~ effect on environment, comprising a metal sheet on the surface of which pits are formed, a precoating comprising the metal sheet having, on at least one surface thereof, an inorganic film and an organic coat layer thereon, wherein said

inorganic film is a film mainly comprising one or both of ~~a metal oxide and a metal hydroxide~~ each using a metal species exclusive of chromium an oxide of metal and/or silicon and a hydroxide of metal and/or silicon, the metal species of the oxide and hydroxide being exclusive of chromium, and said film has cracks therein and the pits and the cracks are formed by a liquid phase process for imparting the oxide of metal and/or silicon and/or the hydroxide of metal and/or silicon to the metal sheet.

4 (previously presented): The precoated metal sheet as claimed in claim 1, wherein said crack has a size such that the width is from 0.1 to 10 μm , the depth is from 0.5 to 10 μm and the length is 3 μm or more.

5 (previously presented): The precoated metal sheet as claimed in claim 2, wherein said pit has a size such that the minor axis is from 0.5 to 10 μm and the depth is from 0.5 to 10 μm .

6 (currently amended): The precoated metal sheet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the metal species constituting said metal oxide or metal hydroxide is one or more member selected from ~~titanium, zirconium and silicon~~ titanium and zirconium.